

## Message Text

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14-11

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-06 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 88

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUDAPES PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L 1777

LIMDIS

MEXICO CITY FOR AMBASSADOR FOR DUEMLING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (INGERSOLL, ROBERT S.), PFOR, BU, HU

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL

REF: STATE 199012

1. IT IS NORMAL THAT DEPARTMENT SHOULD REVIEW PLANNED INGERSOLL VISIT IN LIGHT OF PUERTO RICAN ISSUE IN COMMITTEE OF TWENTY-FOUR. THE SINGLE ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CANCELLING THE VISIT HAS MUCH TO BE SAID FOR IT AND I WILL NOT COMMENT ON IT SINCE IT IS OBVIOUS. HOWEVER, THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST CANCELLING MAY BE LESS OBVIOUS AND I SHOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO SET SOME OF THEM FORTH:

2. IT IS PART OF NORMAL RELATIONS THAT ONE DISCUSSES NOT ONLY POINTS OF AGREEMENT BUT ALSO POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT. IT WOULD THUS BE SALUTARY FOR OUR RELATIONS IF THE SUBJECT OF BULGARIA'S PERFORMANCE IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 WERE BROUGHT UP BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WHILE HE IS HERE AS AN OBSTACLE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS SO EAGERLY SOUGHT BY BULGARIA.

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3. REBUFFS TO THE BULGARIANS DURING THE YEARS WHEN

WE HAD A WHOLE LIST OF GRIEVANCES AGAINST THEM WERE UNDERSTANDABLE; BUT AS REPORTED BULGARIA HAS SYSTEMATICALLY REMOVED MOST OF THEM DURING THE LAST YEAR OR SO IN ATTEMPTS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH US.

4. THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF RECENT REBUFFS TO BULGARIA EVEN AFTER SOME OF THE GRIEVANCES MENTIONED IN PARA 3 ABOVE HAD BEEN REMOVED: NOTABLE AMONG THESE WERE OUR LONG DELAY IN ACCEPTING THE POPOV VISIT, THE INABILITY OF THAT VICE PREMIER TO DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM HIS PRESIDENT TO OUR PRESIDENT, DELAY IN RESPONDING TO A COMMUNICATION FROM ZHIVKOV, AND INABILITY OF THE PRESIDENT TO SEE HIM IN HELSINKI.

5. BULGARIA IS THE ONLY EE COUNTRY THAT HAS NEVER BEEN VISITED BY AN AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE. IN RECENT YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN SECSTATE VISITS TO HUNGARY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1972 AND 1973, AND OF COURSE AT LEAST FOUR SUCH VISITS TO POLAND AND ROMANIA. (I AM NOT COUNTING ALBANIA, BUT WE HAVE NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH IT; NOR EAST GERMANY, WITH WHICH WE ESTABLISHED RELATIONS ONLY RECENTLY.)

6. I THINK THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT IS QUITE AWARE THAT IT DOES NOT OCCUPY A FAVORED POSITION WITH US; AND GOING THROUGH WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VISIT WOULD STILL LEAVE IT SECURELY IN LAST PLACE IN TERMS OF THE INTENSITY WITH WHICH WE ARE PURSUING OUR RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (ALWAYS EXCEPTING ALBANIA, OF COURSE).  
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